Conservation Commission Publishes 2009 Engineering Report

Friday, 16 April 2010

The Washington State Conservation Commission is pleased to present the statewide report for 2009 on professional engineering projects
performed by conservation districts. Professional engineering services are partially funded in nine clusters of conservation districts covering most of Washington State. The 2009 Engineering Report, written by each area, describes the wide range of conservation needs and engineering approaches taken to conserve our natural resources.

Links to specific report sections

All files are in PDF format.

- Introduction and contents

- TAB 1: Central Klickitat Cluster – covers the Central Klickitat, Eastern Klickitat, North Yakima, and Underwood conservation districts

- TAB 2: Franklin Cluster
– covers the Benton, Franklin, Grant, Moses Lake, South Yakima, and Warden conservation districts

- TAB 3: Kittitas Cluster
– covers the Cascadia, Foster Creek, Kittitas County, Okanogan, and South Douglas conservation districts

- TAB 4: Mason Cluster
– covers the Jefferson County, Kitsap, Mason, and Thurston conservation districts

- TAB 5: Pomeroy Cluster
– covers the Adams, Asotin County, Columbia, Palouse, Palouse-Rock Lake, Pine Creek, Pomeroy, Walla Walla County, and Whitman conservation districts

- TAB 6: Skagit Cluster
– covers the San Juan Islands, Skagit, Whatcom, and Whidbey conservation districts

- TAB 7: Snohomish Cluster
– covers the Clallam, King, Pierce County, and Snohomish conservation districts

- TAB 8: Stevens Cluster
– covers the Ferry, Lincoln County, Pend Oreille, Spokane County, and Stevens County conservation districts

- TAB 9: Wahkiakum Cluster
– covers the Clark, Cowlitz, Lewis County, Pacific, and Wahkiakum conservation districts

- TAB 10: Recap

Background on the Professional Engineering Program

The Professional Engineering Program was appropriated funding by the Legislature for the 1999-2001 Biennium and the model proved to be a cost-effect and efficient method for delivering engineering services to landowners and "putting conservation on the ground."

The Professional Engineering Program has been an integral part of achieving project implementation. This program provides funding to “clusters” of conservation districts who coordinate on the hiring of a professional engineer, and accomplish engineering work prioritized by each respective cluster.

Each "cluster" consists of conservation districts with similar resource issues, who join forces to assess and prioritize all of the participating conservation districts' engineering needs, and direct the workload of its' respective engineer. One district out of the cluster serves as the administrative district and enters into a grant contract with the Conservation Commission. The administrative district manages the grant contract, houses the Professional Engineer and provides the necessary support staff for the engineering position.

All cluster districts sign an Inter-District Agreement and each appoints one representative to participate on a Board of Directors. The Board of Directors prioritizes the time and work location of the engineer hired by the cluster based on the criteria they have developed that ensures fairness and utilizes the best methods for achieving natural resource protection, enhancement and restoration.

Conservation district Professional Engineers provide engineering services to landowners for implementation of best management practices, and engineering oversight to conservation district technicians. Services to landowners include engineering survey, preliminary planning, cost estimates, obtaining permits, plan design and oversight of project implementation for dairy, small farm, habitat restoration, livestock, irrigation, and non point water quality projects.

In some clusters, Professional Engineers also oversee the work of Engineers In Training, providing another way to extend engineering knowledge and expand capacity to serve the conservation needs of Washington State citizens.

The Professional Engineering Grants Program is an example of a successful local and state partnership with clearly defined roles, responsibilities and deliverables that results in immediate and long term environmental benefits through implementation of best management practices.

The annual State Conservation Commission budget allocation to the nine engineering clusters total $580,000.